TECHNICAL NOTES

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Some Highlights of Pulpwood Production in the Lake States, 1946-1955

Regional pulpwood figures collected by the Station during the past ten years show some rather interesting and important trends in cutting.

With the addition of several new mills and expansion of some of the established plants the demand for local pulpwood has been steadily increasing. Comparing the ten-year period of 1936-45 with the 1946-55 period, pulpwood production has been stepped up from an estimated 1½ million cords to nearly 2¼ million cords, representing about a 50 percent increase in output during the past ten-year period. This increase in cut of local pulpwood has been instrumental in effecting changes in source of wood supplies and variance in the degree of use of the different timber species. Some of these trends are as follows:

Aspen.--This one-time "weed species" has skyrocketed from one of minor importance (less than 100,000 cords in 1936) to the leading pulpwood species in the Lake States. The annual cut has been steadily increasing to over 1 million cords in 1955. Minnesota production has leveled off, but the Wisconsin and Michigan cut continues to climb (see table on reverse side).

Spruce and balsam fir.--The cut of these long-fibered pulpwood species has remained relatively stable in spite of a strong pulpwood market. Regional production has remained at about 400,000 cords of spruce and 300,000 cords of balsam fir. The volume of spruce is limited but the cut of balsam can be greatly increased.

Hemlock.--This was one of the principal pulpwood species during the 1930's and mid-1940's. In recent years the cut has been steadily declining, especially in Michigan where the output has decreased over 85 percent. The Wisconsin cut has remained stable. The species has been relegated to one of minor importance in the pulpwood market.

Pine.--Although the regional cut has remained relatively stable, production has shifted somewhat statewise. The Michigan and Minnesota cut has declined 55 percent and 35 percent respectively, while Wisconsin has registered an increase of over 60 percent.

Miscellaneous hardwoods.--From an unimpressive beginning a few years ago (less than 5,000 cords) the cut of dense hardwoods for pulpwood has been steadily increasing. Current production is well over 100,000 cords with Wisconsin being the largest producer.

If a strong market for paper products continues, the annual cut of Lake States pulpwood could easily soar over 3 million cords during the next ten-year period. Local timber supplies are adequate to sustain such a large cut with good forest management practices, closer utilization, and through further technological advancements, the use of even larger proportions of aspen and miscellaneous low-grade hardwoods.

JULY 1956 A. G. HORN, Forest Economist
MAINTAINED AT ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Annual cut of pulpwood by species and state
Lake States Region, 1946-1955

(Thousand standard cords, unpeeled)

Species and state	Annual production										Ten-year average
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
Aspen											
Minn.	265	221	276	133	248	283	270	268	254	266	248
Wis.	202	187	167	185	195	281	275	306	348	365	251
Mich.	246	167	182	168	251	371	275	365	404	459	289
Total	713	575	625	486	694	935	820	939	1,006	1,090	788
Balsam fir											
Minn.	93	119	150	117	126	153	163	101	118	120	126
Wis.	47	53	87	78	69	55	76	45	56	48	61
Mich.	117	139	163	124	123	140	152	102	137	122	132
Total	257	311	400	319	318	348	391	248	311	290	319
Birch											
Minn.	1	*	1	*	*	1	2	1	1	4	1
Wis.	5	9	8	10	6	28	15	12	27	16	14
Mich.	9	6	7	6	6	8	9	5	5	4	6
Total	15	15	16	16	12	37	26	18	33	24	21
Hemlock											
Minn.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wis.	64	50	51	47	47	51	66	51	63	58	55
Mich.	250	149	131	61	84	169	125	71	62	36	114
Total	314	199	182	108	131	220	191	122	125	94	169
Pine											
Minn.	333	266	287	163	187	340	194	218	214	218	242
Wis.	75	157	117	72	93	102	95	71	114	121	102
Mich.	85	86	89	38	66	103	58	67	43	38	67
Total	493	509	493	273	346	545	347	356	371	377	411
Spruce											
Minn.	258	225	269	190	186	280	293	216	237	265	242
Wis.	32	31	34	33	31	30	39	25	30	23	31
Mich.	127	134	133	97	98	110	120	81	118	111	113
Total	417	390	436	320	315	420	452	322	385	399	386
Tamarack											
Minn.	19	18	5	3	1	18	13	6	7	8	10
Wis.	2	5	3	1	*	1	1	2	4	4	2
Mich.	3	2	2	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	1
Total	24	25	10	4	1	19	14	8	12	12	13
Misc. hdwds.											
Minn.	*	-	*	-	-	2	2	3	6	5	2
Wis.	*	*	*	-	20	17	15	42	49	75	22
Mich.	8	9	20	25	28	34	23	33	27	38	24
Total	8	9	20	25	48	53	40	78	82	113	48
Mill residue											
Minn.	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wis.	1	1	1	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mich.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
Total	9	4	2	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	2
All species											
Minn.	977	852	988	606	748	1,077	937	813	837	886	872
Wis.	428	493	468	427	468	565	582	554	691	710	539
Mich.	845	692	728	519	656	935	762	724	797	808	745
Total	2,250	2,037	2,184	1,552	1,872	2,577	2,281	2,091	2,325	2,404	2,156

* Less than 500 cords.